



Toxic Foods and Plants

Overview

Dogs and humans have very different digestive systems, and of course, very different things that we are tempted to put in our mouths. For this reason, I want you to think like a dog- even get down on all fours so you can get a feel of what it's like for your dog. Things that may not seem very hazardous to us can cause a great deal of pain for a dog. Things that look boring to you can be very alluring to your dog.

Use the below information to create a safe, low risk environment for your dog. Doing these simple things can save you a lot of money and heart-ache!

Keep it Tidy

Whether you have a young pup or an aging dog, mischief is bound to follow!

- **Dog Food-** dog food in large quantities will cause big tummy upsets. Make sure that your dog's food is kept out of reach and in a secure container, so your dog doesn't help themselves!
- **Rubbish-** having an open recycling bin does have its perks; unless you own an inquisitive puppy! If you don't want even more of a mess, keep a lid on your bins and put them in locations that your dog can't reach (i.e. in a cupboard) or you may find that the allure of paper was too tempting to resist
- **Socks, underwear and other small laundry items-** our dirty laundry smells very nice to dogs; too nice to leave alone. If swallowed, this can become very costly (it will cost your dog's life or a lot of money). Keep your laundry and bathroom doors closed or put dirty laundry somewhere that is inaccessible to a dog.
- **String-** leaving pieces of string, thread or other small items can also do damage. These can get caught in the throat and anywhere in the intestines leaving your dog in knots!

Dangerous Foods for Dogs

There are many things that we can eat that can be VERY dangerous for a dog to consume. If feeding leftovers, ensure you look at the ingredients before giving it to your dog. You can be doing long term damage with some foods that get easily overlooked. Be very careful with the foods below- best to avoid them:

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- **Alcohol** - alcohol (even that in desserts/cakes) get absorbed very quickly into a dog's bloodstream. They are then at very high risk of losing blood sugar, blood pressure and body temperature. This can quickly lead to seizures, respiratory problems and death.
- **Avocado**- Avocado, although not always deadly can cause vomiting and diarrhoea and a lack in faeces production- best to steer clear of Avocado.
- **Bubble/Chewing Gum**- a chemical called Xylitol used to make Gum is highly toxic for dogs. Small amounts can result in death and other symptoms such as being comatose, unco-ordination, vomiting.
- **Cat Food**- Cat food in large quantities is very dangerous. Cat food contains an ingredient called Taurine which is essential for cats but can quickly overdose for dogs. Cat food can be used as training treats but not as your dog's main diet (no matter how much they may like it).
- **Cooked Bones**- cooked bones are known to splinter when chewed. If a dog continues to eat a splintered bone this will cause internal lacerations and become a very prominent choking hazard. Ensure that all bones are raw!
- **Grapes/ Raisins**- grapes are known to cause sudden kidney failure and reduce urine production
- **Human Chocolate**- chocolate in all varieties (milk, dark or white) is toxic for a dog, however the darker the chocolate, the higher the toxicity. Even small doses can cause seizures, severe vomiting, pancreatitis and death. If you want to give your dog the pleasure of chocolate, try the safe option of pet Carob Drops!
- **Human Pain Medication**- including Nurofen, Aspirin and Panadol
- **Macadamia Nuts**- a toxin in Macadamia Nuts causes muscle tremors, fever and even depression in dogs
- **Onion and Garlic**- an amount as small as 100gms of Onion is enough to kill a 20kg dog. Onion Poisoning causes Haemolytic Anaemia which in short, bursts red blood cells. Symptoms can include diarrhoea, vomiting, breathlessness and lethargy
- **Rat Poisoning**- be extremely careful where rat poisoning is placed. The most secure place if you have a dog is in the roof only. If Rat Poisoning is placed in a cupboard a curious dog can sniff it out. This will stop the dog's blood from clotting and soon cause severe illness or death

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Plants to Avoid

- There are many plants that you may have in your back yard that cause rashes, stomach upsets and in some cases death. For a more extensive list of plants toxic to pets [Poisonous to Pets](#) is a fabulous book to purchase.
- **Aloe Vera**- if devoured, Aloe Vera will cause tremors, vomiting and anorexia. Plant in an area that your dog does not have access to.
- **Cycad**- Cycad plants are extremely dangerous for dogs. If ingested they cause Liver Damage in as little as 2 weeks in some cases. Vomiting is generally noticed straight away.
- **Rhododendron**- the toxin in this plant generally takes effect a few hours after digestion. The toxin will interfere with muscle and nerve function
- **Rhoeo/ Moses-in-the-Cradle**- this plant is many times the unknown cause of itching and rashes. This is a high known allergen for dogs upon skin contact

Animal First Aid

Having a First Aid Kit with equipment for a dog can be the difference between life and death. Knowing what to do in an emergency situation is also just as critical.

Our <https://www.positiveresponse.com.au/animal-first-aid/> will give you the practical and theory information for what to do in emergencies such as Toad Poisoning, Animals Hit by a Car, Basic Animal CPR and more.

Basic Animal First Aid is similar to Human First Aid. Everyone should have a First Aid Certificate and this will give you the background knowledge you need. The main difference is that dogs (and cats) will use their teeth and their voice when injured and you are more likely to be harmed. Even if you know the animal and no matter how much it “loves” you, you can still get bitten whilst applying first aid. Always be cautious of their head- create an easy muzzle using a leash or bandage.

A Kit should include:

- Gloves
- Scissors
- Gauze Pad
- Self-Adhesive Bandage
- Fresh Bandage
- Clean towel/ sheet
- Saline Solution
- Tick remover / tweezers
- Small Cardboard Box (for wildlife)

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Be Prepared

If your dog has been exposed to any of the above items please seek Veterinary advice. Ensure you have the closest after hour clinic contact number and address in your phone and talk to your vet about what to do in an emergency.

Redlands Vet Clinic

Monday to Friday 7am – 7pm

Saturday and Sunday 7am – 5pm

(07) 3207 7325

433 Boundary rd,

Thornlands,

Animal Emergency Services

Open 24 hours

(07) 3456 0500

Underwood

Be prepared and be aware



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